

Express Mail Label No.

EF279580534US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Yakov Kamen and Leon Shirman

Title: Use of Templates for Cost-Effective Secure Linking of Video Stream Objects

Serial No.: Unknown

Filed: Herewith

Continuation of: Ser. No. 09/417,991

Filed: 10/13/99

Examiner: T. Nguyen

Art Unit: 2773

Docket No.: isurfTV10

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the paragraph at page 1, lines 8-10, to read as follows:

This patent is a continuation in part of U.S. Patent Applications 09/389,916, 09/390,047 and 09/390,044, each filed September 3, 1999, each of which is incorporated herein by reference. This patent is also a continuation of U.S. Patent Application 09/417, 991, filed October 13, 1999, which is also a continuation in part of the 09/389,916, 09/390,047 and 09/390,044 applications.

A copy of the above-mentioned paragraph showing the changes that have been made, is attached hereto as Attachment A.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 8, line 21 and ending at page 9, line 6 as follows:

As mentioned above, regions 4a to 4d form a template. Suppose the image on screen 2 is annotated with links corresponding to active regions 12 and 14. Region 12 is located within region 6 and outside regions 4a to 4d, and is activated e.g. by using cursor 8 to click on active region 12. Thus, a user can invoke the link associated with region 12 by using cursor 8 to click on region 12, even though the template is active. However, region 14 is located within region 4c. The template covers active area 14, and the link associated with area 14 cannot be invoked unless one removes the template (e.g. in a manner discussed below). Thus, if one moves cursor 8 to area 14 in an effort to invoke the link associated with area 14, one will only succeed in invoking the link associated with region 4c.

A copy of this paragraph, marked up to show the amendment being made, is attached hereto as part of Attachment A.

Please amend the paragraph at page 11, lines 18-23 to read as follows:

In one embodiment, the various templates can be activated, deactivated, and placed over one another by an external source, e.g. the source providing the image in region 6 of screen 2. As indicated above, this image can come from any of a number of places, e.g. a video broadcast using radio waves, optical cable or electrical cable. This image can originate from other sources as well, e.g. the internet. Thus, the provider of this image can determine which templates should be associated with the image at any given time.

A copy of this paragraph, marked up to show the amendment being made, is attached hereto as part of Attachment A.

Please amend claims 1, 5, 23, and 32 to read as follows:

1. A video system comprising:
a screen for displaying visual information; and
said video system containing one or more templates, each template comprising a non-overlapping set of active regions of the screen, whereby when said templates are not activated, said visual information can be seen by a viewer, and when one of said templates is activated, said visual information can still be seen by said viewer.

5. A video system comprising:
a screen for displaying visual information; and
a memory for storing information corresponding to a template, said template establishing a set of regions on the screen as active regions, whereby activating said template does not substantially prevent a viewer from viewing the visual information that was on said screen prior to activating said template.

23. Method comprising:
displaying a first image on a display device, said display device being part of a display system; and
activating a first template over said first image, said first template comprising a set of active areas associated with links, whereby said links can be activated by selecting

one of said active areas, and wherein said first image is visible both before and after said activating of said first template.

32. A method comprising the steps of providing a visual image and template information to a display system, said template information comprising the location of active areas to be established on a display screen and links to be associated with said active areas, whereby said template can be made active or inactive without preventing access to said visual image.

A copy of these claims, marked up to show the changes being made, is provided as part of Exhibit A, attached hereto.

Please cancel claims 12, 13, 14 and 15.

Please add claims 41-61 as follows:

41. System of claim 1 wherein activation of one of said templates does not substantially modify the image appearing on those portions of said screen outside of said non-overlapping set of active regions of the screen.

42. System of claim 1 wherein said video system contains a plurality of templates, said system comprising memory locations for storing the locations of the active regions

of said templates and memory locations for storing links associated with said active regions.

43. System of claim 1 wherein said active regions depict icons, alphanumeric information, thumbnail still images or video images.

44. System of claim 5 wherein activation of said template does not substantially modify the image appearing on those portions of the screen outside said active regions.

45. System of claim 44 wherein said active regions are depict icons, alphanumeric information, thumbnail still images or video images.

46. Method of claim 23 wherein activation of said first template does not substantially modify the image appearing on those portions of the display device outside said active areas.

47. System of claim 46 wherein said active areas depict icons, alphanumeric information, thumbnail still images or video images.

48. A video system comprising:
a screen for displaying visual information; and
said video system containing one or more templates, each template comprising a non-overlapping set of active regions of the screen, activation of said one or more

templates affecting substantially only said non-overlapping set of active regions of said screen.

49. System of claim 48 wherein when one of said one or more templates is active, said active regions are not visible to the user.

50. System of claim 48 wherein when one of said one or more templates is active, said active regions are visible to the user.

51. A video system comprising:
a screen for displaying visual information; and
a memory for storing information corresponding to a template, said template establishing a set of regions on the surface of said screen as active regions, whereby said template, when activated, substantially affects only said set of active regions of said screen.

52. System of claim 51 wherein when said template is active, said active regions are not visible to the user.

53. System of claim 51 wherein when said template is active, said active regions are visible to the user.

54. Method comprising:

displaying a first image on a display device, said display device being part of a display system; and

activating a template over said first image, said template comprising a set of active areas associated with links, said template affecting substantially only said set of active areas, whereby said links can be activated by selecting one of said active areas.

55. Method of claim 54 wherein when said template is activated, said active areas are not visible.

56. Method of claim 54 wherein when said template is activated, said active areas are visible.

57. A method comprising the steps of providing a visual image and template information to a display system, said template information comprising the location of active areas to be established on a display screen and links to be associated with said active areas, whereby said template affects substantially only said active areas.

58. Method of claim 57 wherein when said template is activated, said active areas are not visible.

59. Method of claim 57 wherein when said template is activated, said active areas are visible.

60. System of claim 1 wherein when one of said templates is activated, said active regions are invisible.

61. Method of claim 23 wherein when said template is activated, said active areas are invisible.

REMARKS

The present application is a continuation of copending application 09/417,991, which was allowed on December 18, 2000. During prosecution of the parent '991 application, the Examiner telephoned Applicants' attorney and suggested several Amendments to the claims. Applicants complied with the Examiner's suggestions, the application was allowed, and Applicants have since paid the issue fee for this case.

Applicants are filing the present continuation to prosecute the claims that were pending prior to the above-mentioned Amendments. Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims distinguish over the art of record in the parent '991 application. For example, the claims distinguish over the Purnaveja reference for reasons set forth in the Amendment dated October 10, 2000 in the '991 application.

Applicants enclose a PTO Form 1449 listing the following patents:

U.S. Patent 5,721,851, issued to Cline;

U.S. Patent 5,675,752, issued to Scott;

U.S. Patent 5,339,392, issued to Risberg;

U.S. Patent 6,006,241, issued to Purnaveja;

U.S. Patent 6,032,156, issued to Marcus;

U.S. Patent 5,627,915, issued to Rosser;

U.S. Patent 6,028,600, issued to Rosin.

The Examiner cited these references in an Office Action in the parent '991 application. The attached form also lists U.S. Patent 5,931,908, issued to Gerba. This reference was submitted to the Examiner in an Information Disclosure Statement in the '991 application. The attached form also lists (and Applicants enclose a copy of) U.S. Patent 5,613,057, issued to Caravel. This reference was raised by the Examiner during one of the telephone interviews occurring during December 2000 in the parent '991 application. Although Caravel uses the word "template" (e.g. in the abstract), Caravel uses this term in a manner that is completely different from what is set forth in Applicants' claims, and in particular, Caravel's templates do not meet the limitations set forth in Applicants' claims.

Respectfully Submitted



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Attorney for Applicants

ATTACHMENT A SHOWING CHANGES BEING MADE TO THE APPLICATION

Below is a copy of the paragraph at Application page 1, lines 8-10, showing the changes that are being made by Applicant:

This patent is a continuation in part of U.S. Patent Applications 09/389,916, 09/390,047 and 09/390,044, each filed September 3, 1999, each of which is incorporated herein by reference. This patent is also a continuation of U.S. Patent Application 09/417,991, filed October 13, 1999, which is also a continuation in part of the 09/389,916, 09/390,047 and 09/390,044 applications.

Below is a copy of the paragraph at page 8, line 21-page 9, line 6, showing the changes that are being made by Applicant.

As mentioned above, regions 4a to 4d form a template. Suppose the image on screen 2 is annotated with links corresponding to active regions 12 and 14. Region 12 is located within region 6 and outside regions 4a to 4d, and is activated e.g. by using cursor 8 to click on active region 12. Thus, a user can invoke the link associated with region 12 by using cursor 8 to click on region 12, even though the template is active. However, region 14 is located within region 4c. The template covers active area 14, and the link associated with area 14 cannot be invoked unless one removes the template (e.g. in a manner discussed below). Thus, if one moves cursor 8 to area 14 in an effort to invoke the link associated with area 14, one will only succeed in invoking the link associated with region 4c.

Below is a copy of the paragraph at page 11, lines 18-23, showing the changes that are being made by Applicants.

In one embodiment, the various templates can be activated, deactivated, and placed over one another by an external source, e.g. the source providing the image in region 6 of screen 2. As indicated above, this image can come from any of a number of places, e.g. a video broadcast using radio waves, optical cable or electrical cable. This image can originate from other sources as well, e.g. the internet. Thus, the provider of this image can determine which templates should be associated with the image at any given time.

Below is a copy of claims 1, 5, 23 and 32 showing the changes that are being made.

1. (Amended) A video system comprising:
a screen for displaying visual information; and
said video system containing [a set of] one or more templates, each template comprising a non-overlapping set of active regions of the screen, whereby when said templates are not activated, said visual information can be seen by a viewer, and when one of said templates is activated, said visual information can still be seen by said viewer.

5. (Amended) A video system comprising:
a screen for displaying visual information; and
a memory for storing information corresponding to a template, said template establishing a set of regions on the [surface of said] screen as active regions, whereby

activating said template does not substantially prevent a viewer from viewing the visual information that was on said screen prior to activating said template.

23. (Amended) Method comprising:

displaying a first image on a display device, said display device being part of a display system; and

activating a first template over said first image, said first template comprising a set of active areas associated with links, whereby said links can be activated by selecting one of said active areas, and wherein said first image is visible both before and after said activating of said first template.

32. (Amended) A method comprising the steps of providing a visual image and [a] template information to a display system, said template information comprising the location of active areas to be established on a [video] display screen and links to be associated with said active areas, whereby said template can be made active or inactive without preventing access to said visual image.